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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Malaya

DATE DISTR. 23 APR 51

SUBJECT Summary of Bandit Activity Throughout Federation of Malaya for Week Ending 25 January 1951

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

COMMENT

1. General.

Extensive flooding in many parts of the Federation during the week covered by this report was probably the major reason for a substantial reduction in bandit activity. Security Forces have maintained their pressure and have taken advantage of the weather to inflict increased casualties at reduced loss to themselves. This has been the most satisfactory week Security Forces have had for some time.

2. Bandit Activity.

There were only 64 incidents this week, of which 25 were major ones. Damage to estate property continues to be one of the principle bandit objectives.

Bandit activity has been sharply reduced in Pahang and Johore, while there have been no incidents in Kedah-Perlis, Kelantan, and Trengganu.

3. Casualties.

Security Forces have suffered no fatal casualties this week, and only seven civilians have been killed. Against this the bandits have had heavier losses than usual: twenty-two killed, three were captured, and two surrendered. Five bandits were killed and one wounded out of a group of six during contact and follow up by 2/7 Gurkha Rifles. Other notable Security Force successes include the killing of three out of twenty bandits by 42 Commando, the killing of two out of two (one of whom was an important Min Yuen executive), by 1 Suffolk, the killing of two and the capture of one, and the wounding of two from a group of five by the Scots Guards, and finally, the killing of two and the capturing of one out of a group of three by a Malacca Police patrol.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION

1. Food Supplies.

A Malay bandit who surrendered in South Selangor, came from 2 Platoon of 4 Company. He states that there was no shortage of rice, but meat and vegetables are at a premium. He thought that in general the members of this platoon could be considered reasonably well fed and healthy. This confirms recent reports that bandits in South Selangor are not finding it difficult to obtain food supplies.

2. Bandit Tactics.

Further evidence that the bandits are attempting to ambush follow-up parties investigating incidents is contained in the following report from Perak:

On 8 January 1951 bandits burned a bungalow at the 19 milestone Cameron Highlands Road. Before doing so, they warned the occupants to keep out of the way, as they were going to fire shots in order to attract the police from the 18th mile post. The shots were fired, but not heard by the members of the Police Post.

A Negri Sembilan bandit who surrendered states that when bandits abandon a camp through Security Forces action and have left food behind, they return in about seven to ten days in an effort to recover the food before it goes bad. If they have left documents, they usually wait about a month before returning. If the camp has been left with neither food nor documents, it is two to three months before they return to the area.

3. Propaganda.

The effectiveness of the use of SEM in areas where they are known is contained in a document recovered in the Taiping area.

"At present we are rendered helpless to proceed to the 17th mile Trong road, to carry out our work on the Heng Choon Foh Estate. This is owing to the 'running dogs' at the 17 mile who is a son of a Coffee Shop Keeper, who has been influenced by the British Imperialists' Propaganda disseminated by running dog robber NOW ENG. On the 17th instant I wanted to carry out collection of subscriptions at the 17th mile, but had to abandon that because of the running dog. Ever since NOW ENG's propaganda activities, this running dog has been directly denouncing us."

NOW ENG referred to above is a bandit who has been touring the area giving a number of propaganda addresses.

4. Kampong Guards - Johore.

Among documents found in the Ibar area in December was one recording the minutes of a District Committee Meeting held on 26 November 1950. Among other items the minutes recorded the fact that the Malay Kampong Guards in the area had recently been doubled in numbers and were now well-armed with rifles and shotguns. Since this had happened the Kampong Guards had started to react against the activities of the Party and often carried out searches of the scatter areas and kampongs. They had also arrested some people.

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* Comment. This is a reference to surrendered enemy personnel.

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